

In the pending Office Action dated May 30, 2002, the Examiner indicated that claims 156-160 would be classified in class 705, subclass 52 and therefore would not be examined. Accordingly, Applicants have cancelled claims 156-160 without prejudice.

The Examiner also indicated that Applicants' title was not clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims were directed. With this Amendment, Applicants have amended the title to reflect the fact that the pending claims are method claims, and respectfully submit the Examiner's objection has thus been overcome.

The Examiner rejected Claims 151-155 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,765,152 to Erickson ["Erickson"] (Office Action page 3, ¶4). Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's characterization of Erickson; however, in light of Applicants' amendment of claim 151, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is now moot. In particular, Applicants respectfully submit that Erickson does not teach the type of two-way matching recited in amended claim 151, in which content is made available to potential users or recipients based at least in part on the potential users' or recipients' assignment to a class, **and** in which rights management information associated with the content object is itself classified, such that in response to a request from a potential user or recipient for content having certain rights management information, a match can be made between content having the requested rights management information and a potential user or recipient belonging to the appropriate class.

New independent claim 191 was formed by rewriting dependent claim 153 (as it stood before the amendment of claim 151) in independent form, and making minor amendments for the sake of clarity. Applicants respectfully submit that new claim 191 is

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not anticipated by Erickson. In particular, Applicants respectfully submit that Erickson does not teach the assignment of a potential user or recipient to a class based at least in part on the potential user or recipient's prior use of content. Although, as the Examiner notes, Fig. 7D of Erickson refers to a "class," Erickson fails to describe how users are assigned to a class, much less that such an assignment is based on a user's prior use of content. Instead, Erickson's FIG. 7D illustrates a "Registry Info" window having, "USER CLASSES AVAILABLE" text contained therein. The supporting written description adds very little in the way of expanding on the generic illustration of FIG 7D. The written description states: "FIG. 7d illustrates the typical information which is available from the Registration Server and which can be displayed in a Registry Info window." (Column 21, lines 21-24). Furthermore, the "Brief Description of the Drawings" describes FIGS. 7-7h as "computer displays for use with a system constructed according to the invention, such as the network of FIG 6." (Column 10, lines 27-29). At best, then, FIG. 7D illustrates an information window that displays very limited information to users. And clearly, FIG. 7D, with its attendant written description, does not show the step of "assigning a potential user or recipient to a class, the assignment being based at least in part on information regarding the potential user or recipient's previous use of content," as recited by claim 191 of the present application.

Claims 152-155 and 186-190 are dependent from claim 151, and are thus allowable for at least the reasons set forth above in connection with claim 151. Claims 192-195 are dependent from claim 191, and are allowable for at least the reasons set forth above in connection with claim 191.

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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: September 30, 2002

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APPENDIX

IN THE TITLE

[SYSTEMS AND] METHODS FOR MATCHING, SELECTING, AND/OR CLASSIFYING BASED ON RIGHTS MANAGEMENT AND/OR OTHER INFORMATION.

IN THE CLAIMS

151. (Amended) A method including the following steps:

creating a secure container;

associating a first rule with the secure container, the first rule at least in part governing use of at least some of the secure container contents, the first rule at least in part specifying potential users or recipients of the secure container contents, the specification being based at least in part on a class to which the potential users or recipients have been assigned;

sending the secure container to a first remote party;

the first remote party embedding a first content object in the secure container;

receiving a request for a content object from a potential user or recipient, the request specifying a desired class of rights management information;

determining that the first content object has rights management information associated with it that belongs to the desired class;

sending the secure container, including the embedded first content object, to [a second remote party consisting of a] the potential user or recipient;

evaluating a digital certificate associated with the potential user or recipient;

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determining, based at least in part on the digital certificate, that the potential user or recipient has been assigned to a class; and

based on the determination, and at least in part under control of the first rule, making at least some of the secure container contents available to the potential user or recipient.

186. (New) The method of claim 151, in which the desired class of rights management information comprises rights management information specifying predefined limitations on redistribution of content.

187. (New) The method of claim 151, in which the desired class of rights management information comprises rights management information specifying predefined limitations on modification of content.

188. (New) The method of claim 151, in which the desired class of rights management information comprises rights management information specifying predefined limitations on the cost of acquiring content.

189. (New) The method of claim 151, in which the desired class of rights management information comprises rights management information specifying predefined limitations on the reporting of information regarding usage of content.

190. (New) The method of claim 151, in which the steps of evaluating a digital certificate associated with the potential user or recipient and determining, based at least in part on the digital certificate, that the potential user or recipient has been assigned to a class, are performed before the step of sending the secure container, including the embedded first content object, to the potential user or recipient.

191. (New) A method including the following steps:

creating a secure container;

assigning a potential user or recipient to a class, the assignment being based at least in part on information regarding the potential user or recipient's previous use of content;

associating a first rule with the secure container, the rule at least in part governing use of at least some of the secure container contents, the first rule at least in part specifying potential users or recipients of the secure container contents, the specification being based at least in part on the class to which the potential users or recipients have been assigned;

sending the secure container to a first remote party;

the first remote party embedding a content object in the secure container;

sending the secure container, including the embedded content object, to the potential user or recipient;

evaluating a digital certificate associated with the potential user or recipient;

determining, based at least in part on the digital certificate, that the potential user or recipient has been assigned to a class; and

based on the determination, and at least in part under control of the first rule, making at least some of the secure container contents available to the potential user or recipient.

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192. (New) A method as in claim 191, in which the information regarding the potential user or recipient's previous use of content comprises information regarding the type of rights management information associated with content items the potential user or recipient has previously used.

193. (New) A method as in claim 191, in which the information regarding the potential user's previous use of content comprises information regarding the type of content the potential user or recipient has previously used.

194. (New) A method as in claim 191, in which the information regarding the potential user or recipient's previous use of content is received from a second remote party, the second remote party having collected the information from the potential user or recipient.

195. (New) A method as in claim 191, in which the steps are performed in the order recited.

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